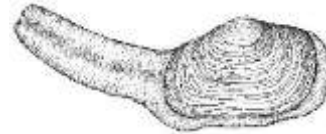

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2013/14 SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL GEODUCK CLAM FISHERY

Juneau . . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) announced today the following information concerning the 2013/14 commercial geoduck clam season in Southeast Alaska:

The Southeast Alaska commercial geoduck clam fishery will begin Thursday, October 3, 2013, with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 583,000 pounds. Fishing areas will be opened based on paralytic shellfish poison (PSP) test results. Weekly PSP results are expected on Monday afternoons or Tuesday mornings, however if sampling is delayed, the fishing period may also be delayed up to one day. Fishing periods will be announced by ADF&G news release and are expected to be between 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each fishing day.

In the Ketchikan management area, based on the recommendation of the Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fishery Association, weekly harvest periods will be restricted to three hours from October 3 through October 17. On Friday, October 18, the Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association will meet to make fishery recommendations for the remainder of the season.

In the Sitka management area, fishing for the 2013/2014 season will begin in September 2014 and is expected to be two days a week until the GHL is reached. The fishing schedule and GHLs for the Sitka fishery areas (District 13) will be announced prior to the fishery with underage and overage policy adjustments.

A valid Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permit is required prior to commercial harvest of geoduck clams and a separate registration is required for the Ketchikan and Sitka management areas. Harvesters are required to contact ADF&G at least 48 hours prior to fishing in a new registration area.

The geoduck clam fishery will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday from Sunday, November 24, through Saturday, November 30, the Christmas and New Year's Day holiday from Sunday, December 22, 2013, through Saturday, January 4, 2014, and the Chinese New Year holiday from Sunday, January 26, through Saturday, February 1. State agencies will be closed on the following State holidays so PSP results will not be available until the following day: November 11 (Veteran's Day), January 20 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day), February 17 (President's Day), March 31 (Seward's Day), and May 26 (Memorial Day).

The department will continue to implement the overage-underage policy designed to maintain the geoduck average harvest rate at 2% of the estimated biomass, as required by 5AAC 38.142(g). Harvest from the 2013/14 season that is over or under the specified GHL for each fishery area will be rounded to

the nearest 100 pounds and the resulting overage or underage will be subtracted or added, respectively, to the GHL for the next fishery rotation for each area, until such time as the GHL is revised based on a new survey of the area.

The mandatory logbook program for geoduck clams (5AAC 38.142(m)) will continue for the 2013/14 season. This requires that logbooks be filled out before departing the harvest site and returned to ADF&G within 7 days of delivery. This data provides biologists with information on new and existing geoduck clam beds. Logbooks are available at local ADF&G offices. All logbook information will remain confidential. Logbooks should be turned in with fish tickets or mailed directly to the Petersburg ADF&G office, C/O Jeff Meucci at P.O. 667, Petersburg, AK 99833.

Harvesters are reminded that there are areas closed to the commercial harvest of geoduck clams described in 5 AAC 38.142(l) for Districts 1, 3, and 13.

Guideline Harvest Levels by Area:

District 1:

Nakat Bay (Subdistrict 101-11-001): will be open for a GHL of 20,400 pounds of whole geoduck clams only in those waters of Nakat Bay, Sitklan Passage, Lincoln Channel, and Tongass Passage east of the longitude of Tree Point Light and south of a line extending from a point on the mainland shore approximately 0.3 nautical miles (nmi) west of the northernmost tip of Slim Island at 54°48.30' N. latitude, 130°47.30' W. longitude, to the northernmost tip of Slim Island, to a point approximately 0.3 nmi north of High Point at 54°47.78' N. latitude, 130°44.28' W. longitude, to a point at the southwestern entrance of Fillmore Inlet at 54°47.60' N. latitude, 130°38.08' W. longitude, to Point Phipp at 54°46.60' N. latitude, 130°37.25' W. longitude, and north of the U.S. Canadian border.

Kelp Island (Subdistrict 101-21-001): will be open for a GHL of 55,200 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters south of the latitude of Duke Point and east of 131°22.63' W. longitude, approximately 1.1 nmi west of Cape Northumberland.

North Kirk Point to Bullhead Cove (Subdistrict 101-23-003): will be open for a GHL of 12,300 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters along the mainland shore north of Kirk Point at 55°00.00' N. latitude and south of a line from Kah Shakes Point at 55°03.23' N. latitude, 131°02.80' W. longitude, to a point west of Bullhead Cove at 55°03.62' N. latitude, 130°59.45' W. longitude.

Percy Islands (Subdistrict 101-25-002): will be open for a GHL of 55,100 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters west of a line from Moss Point on Annette Island, to a point in Sealed Passage at 54°55.80' N. latitude, 131°30.45' W. longitude, north of a line from a point in Sealed Passage at 54°55.80' N. latitude, 131°30.45' W. longitude, to a point in Clarence Strait located at 54°54.63' N. latitude, 131°39.65' W. longitude, and east of 131°39.00' W. longitude, approximately 1.7 nmi east of Point Davison.

Vegas and Hotspur Islands (Subdistrict 101-25-003): will be open for a GHL of 136,300 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters west of a line from a point on the northwest side of Duke Island at 54°57.72' N. latitude, 131°27.42' W. longitude, to a point on the northeast tip of a Vegas Island at 54°58.18' N. latitude, 131°27.64' W. longitude, to a point approximately 0.2 nmi southeast of the Ajax Reef Light at 54°59.98' N. latitude, 131°27.53' W. longitude and east of a line from Point White, to a point in Sealed Passage at 54°55.80' N. latitude, 131°30.45' W. longitude to Moss Point on Annette Island.

Nehenta Bay (Subdistrict 101-29-001): will be open for a GHl of 29,800 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters along the western shore of Gravina Island south of 55°16.18' N. latitude and north of 55°11.65' N. latitude.

Middle Gravina Island (Subdistrict 101-29-002): will be open for a GHl of 42,800 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters along the western shore of Gravina Island south of 55°19.12' N. latitude and north of 55°16.18' N. latitude.

Vallenar Bay (Subdistrict 101-29-004): will be open for a GHl of 25,100 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters on the west coast of Gravina Island south of the latitude of the northernmost tip of Vallenar Point and north of South Vallenar Point at 55°22.83' N. latitude.

Southern Gravina Island (Subdistrict 101-29-005): will be open for a GHl of 15,500 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters along the western shore of Gravina Island south of 55°11.65' N. latitude and north of the latitude of Dall Head.

District 3:

Kaigani Strait (Subdistrict 103-30-001): will be open for a GHl of 32,300 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters of Kaigani Strait south of a line from Luke Point to a point on the northwest shore of Long Island at 54°55.52' N. latitude, 132°48.90' W. longitude and north of a line from the southernmost tip of Long Island to the easternmost tip of Cape Muzon.

Bucareli Bay and contiguous waters (Subdistrict 103-50-003): will be open for a GHl of 15,300 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters west of a line from Point Cuerdo on the southeast side of San Fernando Island, to Point Eugenia on the north side of San Juan Bautista Island, to the southernmost tip of Point Miliflores on the south side of San Juan Bautista Island, to Tranquil Point on Prince of Wales Island; north of a line extending from a point on the northeastern shore of Suemez Island at 55°20.72' N. latitude, 133°19.75' W longitude, to the northernmost tip of Cape Flores, to the southernmost tip of Joe Island, then due east to Prince of Wales Island; north and east of a line from the westernmost tip of Point Arboleda to the southernmost tip of Point San Roque; south of the northernmost tip of Cristina Island located at 55°22.83' N. latitude; and south and east of a line from Point Amargura to a point on the eastern shore of St. Ignace Island at 55°24.27' N. latitude, 133°24.48' W. longitude with the following restriction:

Port San Antonio: all waters of Port San Antonio are closed to the harvest of geoduck clams.

Portillo Channel (Subdistrict 103-50-008): will be open for a GHl of 32,200 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters south of a line from a point on the northeast side of Lulu Island at 55°30.62' N. latitude, 133°28.08' W. longitude to a point on the northwest side of San Fernando Island at 55°31.53' N. latitude, 133°26.82' W. longitude, east of a line from Point Gorda at 55°25.50' N. latitude, 133°26.20' W. longitude to Arrecife Point at 55°27.07' N. latitude, 133°25.75' W. longitude, and north and west of a line from Point Amargura to a point on the eastern shore of St. Ignace Island at 55°24.27' N. latitude, 133°24.48' W. longitude.

Little Steamboat Bay (Subdistrict 103-70-002): will be open for a GHl of 18,600 pounds of whole geoduck clams only in those waters along the northern shoreline of Noyes Island east of Steamboat Point located at 133°41.33' W. longitude and west of a point approximately 1.3 nmi west of Steamboat Point at 133°39.04' W. longitude.

Steamboat Bay (Subdistrict 103-70-003): will be open for a GHL of 36,600 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters in Steamboat Bay along the northern shore of Noyes Island south of a line from Steamboat Point at 55°33.10' N. latitude, 133°39.04' W. longitude, to a point approximately 0.3 nmi north of Point Incarnation in Arriaga Passage at 55°33.54' N. latitude, 133°37.30' W. longitude, to a point on the Noyes Island shore near Point Incarnation at 55°33.11' N. latitude, 133°37.29' W. longitude.

District 3 and 4:

Maurelle Islands (Subdistricts 103-70-009, 103-80-009, 104-40-009, 104-50-009): will be open for a GHL of 55,500 pounds of whole geoduck clams in those waters of Bocas de Finas, Gulf of Esquibel and Sonora Passage enclosed by a line from a point on Heceta Island approximately 0.9 nmi southeast of White Cliff at 55°43.35' N. latitude, 133°37.36' W. longitude, to a point approximately 1 nmi northwest of the Timbered Islands at 55°42.10' N. latitude, 133°49.70' W. longitude, to a point 0.5 nmi southwest of the southwestern most tip of St. Joseph's Island in Arriaga Passage at 55°34.47' N. latitude, 133°43.52' W. longitude, to a point in Arriaga Passage approximately 1.1 nmi north of Point Incarnation at 55°34.47' N. latitude, 133°37.29' W. longitude, to a point in the Gulf of Esquibel at 55°37.35' N. latitude, 133°24.70' W. longitude, to the westernmost tip of Blanquizar Point at 55°37.35' N. latitude, 133°23.88' W. longitude, then north along the shoreline of Prince of Wales Island to a point approximately 0.2 nmi east of Bobs Place on St. Philips Island at 55°38.19' N. latitude, 133°23.97' W. longitude, to a point on Heceta Island approximately 1.1 nmi northeast of Pt. Desconocida at 55°42.13' N. latitude, 133°30.85' W. longitude, then west along the shoreline of Heceta Island to a point approximately 0.9 nmi southeast of White Cliff at 55°43.35' N. latitude, 133°37.36' W. longitude.

District 13:

Symonds Bay (Subdistrict 113-31-002): will be open in those waters of Symonds Bay on Biorka Island south of a line from the westernmost tip of Hanus Island at 56°51.90' N. latitude, 135°30.50' W. longitude, to the easternmost tip of Entrance Island at 56°51.92' N. latitude, 135°31.52' W. longitude.

Taigud and Kolosh Islands Area (Subdistricts 113-31-004, 113-41-004): will be open in those waters along the western coast of Baranof Island and associated offshore islands south and east of a line from Cape Burunof to the northernmost tip of Little Biorka Island, and north and east of a line from a point at the southern entrance of Kliuchevoi Bay at 56°50.18' N. latitude, 135°22.67' W. longitude, to a point, southwest of Fragrant Island, at 56°50.08' N. latitude, 135°25.77' W. longitude, to 56°50.48' N. latitude, 135°25.77' W. longitude (approximately midway between Torsar Island and Blackbird Island), to Middle Rock, to the northernmost tip of Hanus Island, and to the northernmost tip of Little Biorka Island.

Biorka Channel and Legma Island Area (Subdistrict 113-31-003): will be open in those waters east of a line from the northeasternmost tip of Hanus Island to a point on the southeast shore of Biorka Island at 56°50.55' N. latitude, 135°30.97' W. longitude, to 56°47.10' N. latitude, 135°25.60' W. longitude (approximately 0.45 nmi southeast of Jug Island); and south and west of a line from the northeasternmost tip of Hanus Island, to the westernmost tip of Middle Rock, to 56°50.48' N. latitude, 135°25.77' W. longitude (approximately midway between Torsar Island and Blackbird Island), to 56°47.10' N. latitude, 135°25.60' W. longitude (approximately 0.45 nmi southeast of Jug Island).

Elovoi, Golf, and Gornoi Islands Area (Subdistrict 113-31-005): will be open in those waters enclosed by a line from the southern entrance of Kliuchevoi Bay at 56°50.18' N. latitude, 135°22.67' W. longitude, to 56°50.08' N. latitude, 135°25.77' W. longitude (southwest of Fragrant Island), to 56°47.10' N. latitude, 135°25.60' W. longitude (approximately 0.45 nmi southeast of Jug Island), to 56°41.97' N. latitude, 135°17.52' W. longitude (southern tip of Scow Island), to 56°41.73' N. latitude, 135°15.05' W. longitude (southernmost tip of Beauchamp Island), with the following restrictions:

Middle Channel: will be closed east of a line from 56°44.10' N. latitude, 135°14.77' W. longitude to 56°44.37' N. latitude, 135°15.02' W. longitude;

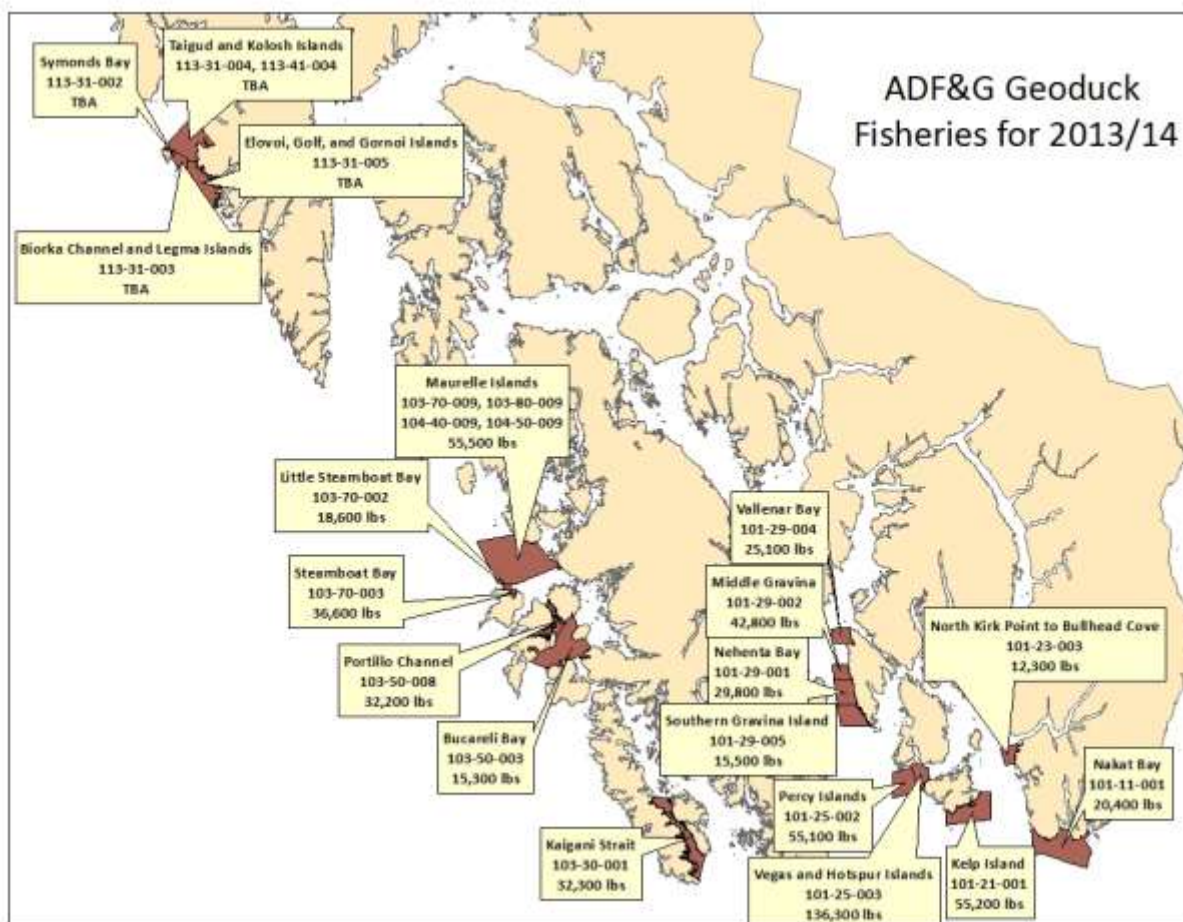
West Crawfish Inlet: will be closed east of a line from 56°46.28' N. latitude, 135°16.39' W. longitude, to 56°46.69' N. latitude, to 135°17.21' W. longitude.

Area Closures:

Port Real Marina (Subdistrict 103-50-007) will not open this season. The recent stock assessment survey revealed that the estimated biomass of geoduck stock in this area has fallen to less than 30 percent of the original biomass. Therefore, under 5 AAC 38.142 (h), this area will remain closed. Observations of sea otters and evidence of sea otter predation on geoducks and other species are well documented during dive surveys in this and nearby areas.

Tlevak Strait (Subdistricts 103-40-009, 103-50-009) will not open this season. During the last rotation, the harvest in this area was significantly over the GHL. When the overage calculation was applied to this area the remaining GHL was too small to be effectively managed. The unharvested GHL from this season will be credited to the next rotation in which this area is open.

The Emergency Order corresponding to this announcement is EO 1M1613.



Note: This chart is for general reference purposes only and does not identify boundaries of open areas. See written descriptions above for detailed description of open areas.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

Office	Ketchikan	Petersburg	Wrangell	Sitka	Juneau	Haines	Hoonah	Yakutat
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